



How precious are your thoughts about me, O God.  
They cannot be numbered!  
I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand!  
Psalm 139: 17-18

**August 6, 2023**  
**10:30 Worship**  
**Holy Communion**

**GUESTS**, Welcome to our faith community here at Union UCC. To learn more about us please visit our website at [www.unionucc.org](http://www.unionucc.org) or like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/unioneffs](http://www.facebook.com/unioneffs).

Please complete the Welcome Card in the racks in front of you and hand it in with your offering or give it to a pastor. This is a good way to let us know you're here.

***Our church is a diverse family of believers, spiritually united in Christ, rooted in a rich heritage and growing with vitality into the future. We proclaim God's word, nurturing and inspiring dedicated Christian discipleship through worship, education, pastoral care, fellowship, and outreach within our community and the world.***

***One of our core values as a church is extravagant welcome and hospitality. We believe in God's inclusive love. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.***

Lay Readers: Dan Topp  
Ushers: Eric Minnich, Scott Nagle, Tami Wassum, Don Penrod, Jennifer Haley, Suzanne Schneider  
Greeters: Ruth Ensley, Geoff & Sara Jane Brace  
Sound: Doug Albert

**\*Please stand in body or spirit.**

**Prelude**  
**He Leadeth Me William Bradbury**  
**Blake Hoppes**

**Welcome**

**For Communion Today:**

Everyone is welcome to this meal of love and grace. You will be served in your seats. Please wait to eat and drink until the Pastor invites you to do so.

If you are at home, we invite you to find something to eat and drink that represents communion for you.

A non-gluten option with juice is available in a prepackaged container on the bread tray. Both red wine and white grape juice are on the tray of cups. Please choose either.

**When we worship in the sanctuary the offering will be collected by our ushers in your seats.**

**When we worship outside in the grove the offering is collected at the welcome tables when you arrive or leave worship.**

**Thank you for the many ways in which you support God's work and God's people.**

**Preparing for Worship**

Leader: Like a hungry crowd,

**ALL: we come to be fed.**

Leader: Like an anxious child,

**ALL: we come to be comforted.**

Leader: Like a forlorn friend,

**ALL: we come seeking kindness.**

Leader: Like an agitated mob,

**ALL: we come demanding answers.**

Leader: Like a refugee,

**ALL: we come needing a home.**

Leader: Like a spirit-filled disciple,

**ALL: we come to share our joy.**

Leader: Like a newborn babe,

**ALL: we come with hearts and minds open to all life offers.**

Leader: Like pilgrims of old,

**ALL: we come to travel this journey of faith.**

Leader: Here we reach out to grasp your hand, O God of grace and glory, reaching for your blessing, reaching for each other.

**ALL: Here we come to worship.**

### **Prayer of Illumination**

**Leader:**

**Today's response is: be with us now.**

Leader: As you have always been with those who have drawn apart for solitude, for grieving, for prayer, out of fear or out of hope,

**ALL: be with us now.**

Leader: As you have always been with the ones who search or flee, struggle or hunger,

**ALL: be with us now.**

Leader: As you have always been in this place of worship, and in every place where those who sought you have encountered you,

**ALL: be with us now.**

Leader: O God, find us here in the struggle of this moment. Help us to find words for the blessing we so need, and ears to hear how others wrestle. We have found your goodness in each other's stories and your steadfast love.

**ALL: Be with us now. Amen.**

**Response Song #391 In the Midst of New Dimensions**

Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

**ALL: In the midst of new dimensions,**

**In the face of changing ways,**

**Who will lead the pilgrim peoples**

**Wandering in their separate ways?**

**God of rainbows, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,**

**We your people, ours the journey**

**Now and ever, now and ever, now and ever more.**

**Passing the Peace**

Leader: One of our core values as God's church here

in Neffs is extravagant welcome.

So repeat after me - No matter who you are or where you

are on life's journey,

**ALL: No matter who you are or where you are on life's**

**journey,**

Leader: you are welcome here.

**ALL: you are welcome here.**

Leader: And no matter who you are or where you

are on life's journey,

**ALL: And, no matter who you are or where you**

**are on life's journey,**

Leader: God loves you and so do we.

**ALL: God loves you and so do we.**

*Leader: Please stand and greet each other,*

*sharing God's love and welcome.*

*We send our love to those worshiping at home too.*

**Please stand in body or spirit.**

**\*Hymn #451 Be Now My Vision**

Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

**1. Be now my vision, O God of my heart;**

**Nothing surpasses the love you impart**

**You my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, your presence my light.**

**2. Be now my wisdom, and be my true word;  
Ever within me, my soul is assured;  
Mother and Father, you are both to me,  
Now and forever your child I will be.**

**3. Riches I need not, nor life's empty praise,  
You, my inheritance, now and always;  
You and you only are first in my heart,  
Great God, my treasure, may we never part.**

**4. Sovereign of heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Hear of my own heart, what ever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

**Please be seated.**

**During Summer Worship:**

**\*A reminder to pick up your Children's Activity Bulletins at the door when you arrive.**

**\*Mornings with Ms. Tiffany**

**Kids are invited to join Ms. Tiffany for stories, activities, crafts and fun every Sunday at 10:30 worship through August 20. Pastors invite children forward to leave with Ms. Tiffany for a time designed just for them!**

Children will be in room 100 (or the gazebo when we're in the grove) and will return before worship is over. If worship ends early, parents are welcome to meet their children downstairs.

**During the School Year: Education Hour and Faith Formation for All Ages – 9:15-10:15am on Sundays**

**Children's Church** – during 10:30am Worship for ages 3-  
grade 5.

**Song:** Go, Make a Diff'ence Angrisano, Tomaszek #199  
Sing! Prayer and Praise

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of five lines of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Go make a diff - 'rence. We can make a diff - 'rence. Go make a diff - 'rence in the world. Go make a dif - f'rence. We can make a dif - f'rence. Go make a dif - f'rence in the world. Go make a dif - f'rence in the world." The score includes various chords (Asus, A, Dm, Bb, C, F, Bbmaj7) and musical notations such as a repeat sign, a double bar line, and a "Fine" marking. The final line of music includes first and second endings for the phrase "Go make a dif - f'rence in the world.".

**Scripture Reading**

Genesis 32: 22-31

The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had.

Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail

against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.

Romans: 9: 1-5

I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit—I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

Matthew 14: 13-21

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to

me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

**The Message** Let's Get Ready to Rumble  
 Geoffrey Brace, Guest Preacher and Member

Geoff has been around church most of his life. He's served on the Board of Directors of the United Church of Christ (and a few denominational predecessor boards), was PNEC Conference Moderator, attended at least eight UCC General Synods (including one on his honeymoon), did terms on local congregation governing bodies, and as has been spotted cooking and doing dishes in a few church kitchens. Geoff, his wife Sara and their son Isaac are members of Union UCC. Geoff was elected to the Lehigh County Board of Commissioners in 2013 and is currently the Chair.

**Hymn** #331 Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life  
 Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

George Herbert, 1633; alt.

John 8:12; 14:1-7; 15:11

Unison

1 Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a way as gives us  
 2 Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: such a light as shows a  
 3 Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: such a joy as none can



breath; Such a truth as ends all strife;  
 feast; Such a feast as mends in length;  
 move; Such a love as none can part;

such a life as conquers death.  
 such a strength as makes a guest.  
 such a heart as joys in love.

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**Thank you for the many ways in which you support God's work and God's people.**

## **NEWS ABOUT THE MINISTRY AND MISSION OF GOD'S CHURCH**

### **OFFERING**

**Donate to God's Mission and Ministry at UNION UCC**

**OFFERING ENVELOPES.** If you can't attend worship, you can mail your envelopes to the church. The church address is on one side, just add a stamp.

**ELECTRONIC GIVING.** Choose to give a repetitive contribution on a regular basis (i.e weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly), or make single contributions whenever you desire in an amount of your choice. Electronic contributions are initiated from Union UCC's website (UnionUCC.org). Click on 'giving', then on 'Ways to Give' and follow the prompts. Feel free to contact John Harting (610-799-2508) or Don Penrod (610-398-2654) to answer your questions or demonstrate the process.

**VENMO** Union UCC now has Venmo! You can now make donations, pay for events, and support the church through this platform. Please be sure to include in the "What it's for" line what your Venmo is supporting. Search for @unionuccneffs

**MOBILE GIVING.** If you would like to give on the go, Vanco, the company that processes our e-giving transactions, has a mobile app that allows you to do so. Open your app search screen, search under "Vanco Mobile Faith \Engagement" and follow the prompts.

**Musical Offering**  
**There is a Fountain**  
**Tune: Cleansing Fountain, Early American Melody**  
**Garet Hill**

Please stand in body or spirit.

**Offering Response**

#562 Take My Gifts Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

**ALL: Take my gifts and let me love you,  
God who first of all loved me,  
Gave me light and food and shelter,**

**gave me life and set me free,  
Now because your love has touched me,  
I have love to give away,  
Now the bread of love is rising,  
loaves of love to multiply.**

Please be seated.

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

Everyone is welcome to this meal of love and grace. You will be served in your seats. Please wait to eat and drink until the Pastor invites you to do so.

If you are at home, we invite you to find something to eat and drink that represents communion for you.

A non-gluten option with juice is available in a prepackaged container on the bread tray. Both red wine and white grape juice are on the tray of cups. Please choose either.

Leader: The Transforming God be with you.

**People: And also with you!**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Living One.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: God of Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar, Rebekah and Isaac, Jacob and Esau, Leah and Rachel, there is no pain that does not echo in your heart, and so we pray: for all the grief and for all the losses, for the tears shed and the cries unheard, for all the half goodbyes,

relationships without resolve,  
and for all the things that we have left unsaid,  
we pray.

Broken, tired, and hungry,  
we come to you seeking healing, strength, and  
nourishment knowing that you will make us whole.  
So, we, a diverse group of people, gather around to break  
and share this bread as a way of  
remembering the one whom we follow.

The one who was fully who God created him to be;  
the one who loved God with all his heart, with all his mind,  
and with all his understanding.

The one who taught us about love;  
the one who taught us to pray;  
the one who wrestled and struggled, as we often do;  
the one who has freed us from the vices of this world.

We look at the cross and remember the one who died a  
cruel death because of beliefs,  
because of love, because of faith.

We take the bread and remember the one who loved us  
all and taught us to live peacefully together as one com-  
munity, the one who reminds us that we are never alone,  
the one who is the Christ.

May the memory of the Christ in this meal, and in each  
other, sustain us for the struggles we face now  
and in the journey ahead.

Leader: On the night in which he gave himself up for us,  
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,  
gave it to his disciples, and said:  
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup,  
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
“Drink from this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.”

Leader: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Make them be for us the vessels of Christ,  
so that we may be for the world the vessels of Christ,  
redeemed by his love.  
By your Spirit change us for the better,  
make us one with Christ,  
one with each other,  
and one in ministry to all the world,  
until Christ comes in final victory  
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

### **BREAKING BREAD AND POURING WINE**

L: The bread which we break is the communion of the  
body of Christ.

L: The cup of blessing which we bless is the communion of  
the blood of Christ.

L: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all  
things are ready.

### **SHARING THE MEAL**

**Everyone is welcome to this meal of love and grace. You  
will be served in your seats.**

**Wait to eat and drink until the Pastor invites you to do so.**

**A non-gluten option with juice is available in a  
prepackaged container on the bread tray.**

**Both red wine and white grape juice are on the tray of cups. Please choose either.**

## **THE BREAD**

### **MUSIC OFFERING**

Come to the Table McDonald, Glover, Frey

**Pastor Kris with Blake**

L: Take and eat, the body of Christ, broken for you.

## **THE CUP**

**HYMN #330 Let Us Break Bread Together**

Black Hymnal, New Century Hymnal

**Let us break bread together on our knees  
Let us break bread together on our knees  
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,  
My God have mercy on me**

**Let us drink wine together on our knees  
Let us drink wine together on our knees  
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,  
My God have mercy on me**

**Let us praise God together on our knees  
Let us praise God together on our knees  
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,  
My God have mercy on me.**

L: Take and drink, this is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for you.

### **The Blessing**

L: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, keep and preserve you unto eternal life.

# COLLECTING OF CUPS

## Music Offering

### Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)

Chris Tomlin & Louie Giglio

Please stand in body or spirit.

#### The Lord's Prayer

**ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come.**

**Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever. Amen.**

#### \*Benediction

Leader: God never lets us go. We are eternally held in the loving embrace of God: Creator, Savior, and Spirit.

Go with this blessing and know this promise of peace.

Amen.

#### \* Hymn #35 No Matter Sing! Prayer and Prayer

♩=120

F Dm Gm7 C F F7

No mat-ter who, no mat-ter what, no mat-ter where you are on the

Bb G7 F Dm G7 Gm7 C7

jour-ney of life; you're wel-come, wel-come in this place. No mat-ter

F Dm Gm7 C F F7

who, no mat-ter what, no mat-ter where you are on the

B<sup>b</sup> G<sup>7</sup> F Dm Gm<sup>7</sup> C<sup>7</sup> C F F

jour-ney of life: ac-cept-ed, wel-come-d by God's grace. grace.

To verses Last time, Fine

Verses F B<sup>b</sup>add9 B<sup>b</sup>m<sup>add9</sup>

1. For we are fam - i - ly, meant to be  
 2. And in di - ver - si - ty, u - ni - ty,  
 3. To - geth - er we will sing, wor - ship bring,  
 4. The God who spoke through Christ, speaks to us;

F F<sup>9</sup> F<sup>7</sup> B<sup>b</sup>add9

pur - posed for e - ter - ni - ty. Born in love,  
 har - mo - ny for all to see: Just - ice and  
 hands and hearts out - stretched to all. Je - sus praise,  
 lis - ten to our Sav - ior's call. Wel - come home,

B<sup>b</sup>m<sup>add9</sup> G<sup>9</sup> G<sup>7</sup> Gm<sup>7</sup>/C C<sup>7</sup> D.C.

from a - bove, God's com - mu - ni - ty.  
 e - qui - ty, God's com - mu - ni - ty.  
 hearts a - blaze, lis - ten to God's call.  
 wel - come in, wel - come one and all...

## Postlude Music

Abide With Me Henry Francis Lyte  
 Blake Hoppes

**Summer Coffee Hour** will continue on Sundays after 10:30 worship. Stop by in Memorial Hall for some cool lemonade, juice, water, and a snack and visit with friends and pastors.



# EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week	
Last Week	\$5,257.00		In person
Calendar Year 2023 (Jan-May)	\$162,264.00	8:00 am	<b>n/a</b>
Calendar Year 2022 (Jan-May)	\$158,771.00	10:30 am	<b>130</b>
Change from Last Year	<b>2.2%</b>	Education Hour	
Budget FY 2022-23 (July-May)	\$397,230.00	<b>2022 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:</b>	
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July-May))	\$374,108.00	Last Week:	
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	<b>-5.8%</b>	Total YTD:	3,187lbs, \$735
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>		OGHS	\$665.00

## Presentations to the Glory of God

*Be a sponsor for \$20, send to Union UCC through your offering envelope or online marked Spread the Good News or \$8 for Children's Bulletin.*

*Contact Marissa to sign up for a certain date or to sponsor in honor or memory of someone.*

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